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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 12 January 1953

SUBJECT Army Maneuvers

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DATE OF INFO.

DO NOT CIRCULATE

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The previously reported maneuvers have been completed. The Polish garrison in Szczecin (Stettin) returned to that town and on 4 October 1952 formally made its entrance into the town. All units taking part in the parade were motorized, and no horse-drawn equipment was observed. For the parade, Szczecin's infantry regiment, which is not motorized, was transported in military trucks, carrying 28 soldiers each. The parade was reviewed by a general and consisted of infantry and artillery troops, tanks, and troops on motorcycles; source believes that the motorcyclists were part of the infantry regiment, since they wore infantry uniforms.
2. Szczecin's Soviet garrison has been increased in size, but is not as large as it was before the maneuvers. The Soviet troops returned without any fanfare.
3. The previously reported concentration of Polish troops actually took place, but the maneuvers did not develop to the extent that it had been expected they would. Source was told that this was because the maneuvers carried out by the Western powers took place without any incidents, and because the heavy rains, which began at the end of September, caused fields and second-class roads to become marshy, thereby hindering the travel of mechanized vehicles.
4. Polish units returned to their garrison towns during the first week of October. In the coastal towns these units made their entrances on 4 October. In localities such as Koszalin (Koeslin), Kolobrzeg (Kolberg), Slupsk (Stolp), and Leborg (Lauenburg) only motorized troops took part, and no quartermaster troops were seen. At Koszalin, for example, only a non-mechanized infantry unit is stationed, but for the 4 October parade, the troops were carried on Soviet-type military trucks, in each of which were 30 soldiers with

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arms and equipment; the same was true at Slupsk. Soviet infantry and artillery troops appeared in the area of Szczecinek (Neustettin); these two units, which had not previously been stationed there, are expected to remain there through the winter.

5. At the time of the concentration of troops for the fall maneuvers, the Polish Air Force was also concentrated together with a greater number of Soviet Air Force units than usual. At the Lawica Airfield, near Poznan, where a Polish bomber regiment is stationed, ten Soviet jet aircraft were observed in late August 1952. It is not known if the planes were stationed there permanently or whether they were taking part in the maneuvers. During the entire month of September 1952, a larger number of planes than usual were assembled at the Pobiedziska Airfield, north of Poznan. Altogether, there were at least 150 fighter and bomber aircraft, all marked with Polish insignia. This airfield has been enlarged and several additional buildings have been constructed; during the month of September, troops assigned to the field were quartered in the new buildings near the airfield, in tents, and in the neighboring villages.

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